

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19 are pending in the application. Amendments to claims 1 and 11 have submitted herewith. Support for the claim amendments is found in original claim 8, for example. It is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,328,701 ("Richmond"). Please enter the amendments submitted herewith. The amendments to claims 1 and 11 include the limitations of claims 8 and 18 (now cancelled). As claims 8 and 18 were merely objected to and not rejected based on the art, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments place the claims in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 11-19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd PARAGRAPH

Claim 11 was rejected as indefinite as to the expression "a source of phosphate ions selected from Na⁺, K⁺, Ca⁺ and Cl⁻." The typographical error presenting this expression has been corrected. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the amendment overcomes the rejection. Therefore withdrawal of the rejection under section 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey K. Weaver', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

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